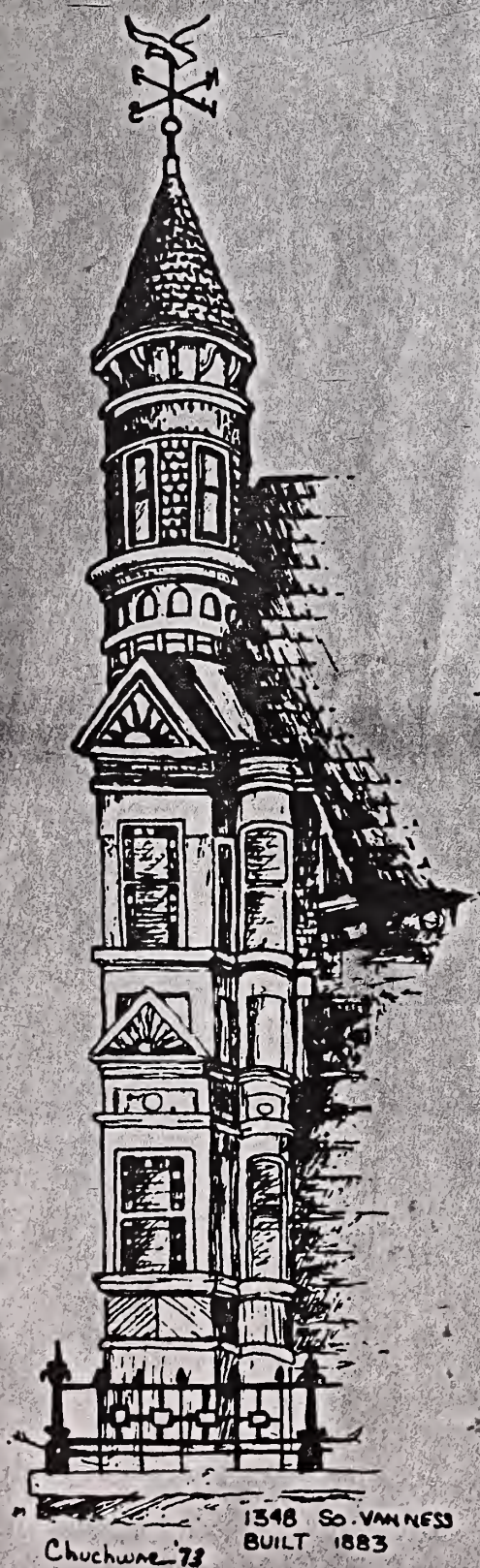


Victorian Alliance House Tour

for the
**FIFTH INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION**
of the
**AUTOMATIC MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS COLLECTORS'
ASSOCIATION**



Friday, September 2, 1977
9.30 AM

San Francisco, California

W

elcome to the Victorian Alliance house tour for the Fifth International Convention of the Automatic Musical Instruments Collectors' Association.

San Francisco's history is best related by her houses, and the ever-changing dynamics of the City are well demonstrated by the houses on this tour. There are as many reasons for choosing to renovate and live in a Victorian house as there are people doing so, and the owners of these houses find them wonderfully supportive of their various life styles.

The first houses on this tour started out as truly grand houses about a hundred years ago, and shared the nearly disastrous subsequent decline of their neighborhood. About ten years ago, and as recently as one year ago, the renovation of these houses restored them to their original grandeur, plus modern comforts, and contributed to the reversal of the wide-spread deterioration of the neighborhood. Alamo Square and environs are now enjoying the most dramatic renaissance in the City.

The final two houses are also sharing the changes in their neighborhoods, proving that well-designed and well executed space furnishes great flexibility in use.

In courtesy to the owners, it is requested that there be no smoking inside the buildings.

The Victorian Alliance and the owners of the houses hope that you enjoy the tour, and will be happy to answer any questions you may have concerning the houses.

For further information:

THE VICTORIAN ALLIANCE
4143 23rd Street
San Francisco 94114

Phone: TAG-BOOM



T.M. DeGruy 1976

Built in the late 1860's, this house was connected to the City water system on June 15, 1870. The owner of record at that time was John W. Nye, who was listed as a real estate agent in the 1871-72 City Directory, when the address was given as 1015 Scott Street. Changing house numbers is one of the most harrasing problems that confront house researchers.

From 1896 to 1930, the house was occupied by Cyril Williams, Sr., with the exception of 1926, when Williams is listed as living at 1010 Scott St. The house shows evidence of having suffered a serious

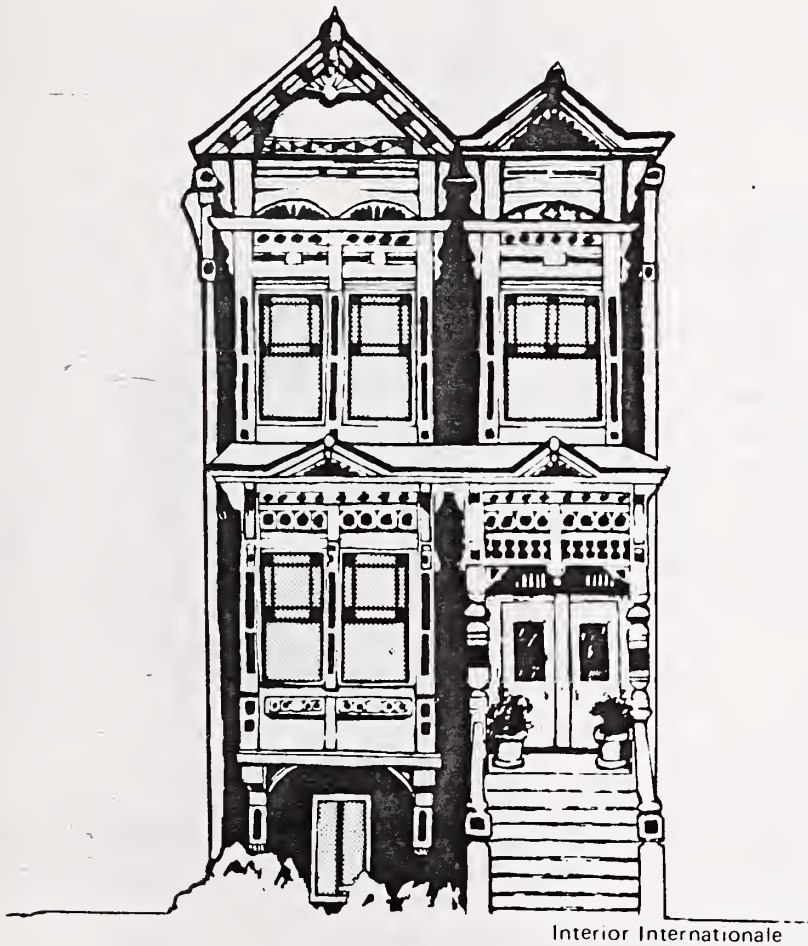
fire, and it may have been the year after the fire when the Williams family found it necessary to live temporarily across the street. Debris (fishing poles) found within the walls, indicate that the house originally may have had a higher, possibly a Mansard, roof, which was replaced with the present flat roof after the fire. Williams' business career, according to City Directories, advanced from a clerkship, to financial expert, to an accountant's position with the Finance Committee of the Board of Supervisors.

This house is a classic flat-front Italianate which still has its original wrought iron fence and gate. The apparent double front door is in reality a single door, camouflaged as a double. In recent years, the house went through a series of disastrous occupancies, and had been condemned when the present owners bought it a year ago. Fortunately, the stair railing and the fireplaces had been protected by multiple layers of paint. One fireplace, not original, has been changed by the owners. The mason who installed the existing French marble antique, says that the arched brick monstrosity which it replaced was typical of the poorly-built fireplaces which were installed all over town to replace ones damaged in the Quake.

Originally, the second floor hallway had doors with transoms to provide light. The present owners changed the doors and added the beautiful skylight you see. It was made in England and is of the same period as the house.

As do several houses on this tour, this house demonstrates the versatility of good original spatial design. The newly-added rental unit on the second floor provides a comfortable, distinctive, and conveniently arranged unit without disturbing the appearance or the function of the original structure.

1451 McAllister



This two-story, two-flat Stick-Eastlake was connected to the City Water system on July 12, 1889, for John B. Caritey. The building may be of earlier date, as there were, and are, numerous live springs in the neighborhood. A native of France, his names are variously spelled as John and Jean and Caritey and Carity. He was described as a "Capitalist" in the 1893-94 City Directory. The original street address was 1421-23 McAllister.

The upper flat of this property has traditionally been occupied by the owner of the building, as it is now. It is well preserved, in nearly original condition, with operating gas lights and many original plumbing fixtures.

The lower flat has always been used as an income unit, and because of the continuum of owner-occupancy of the upper flat, the entire building has never suffered the vicissitudes which were experienced by so many properties in the Alamo Square area.

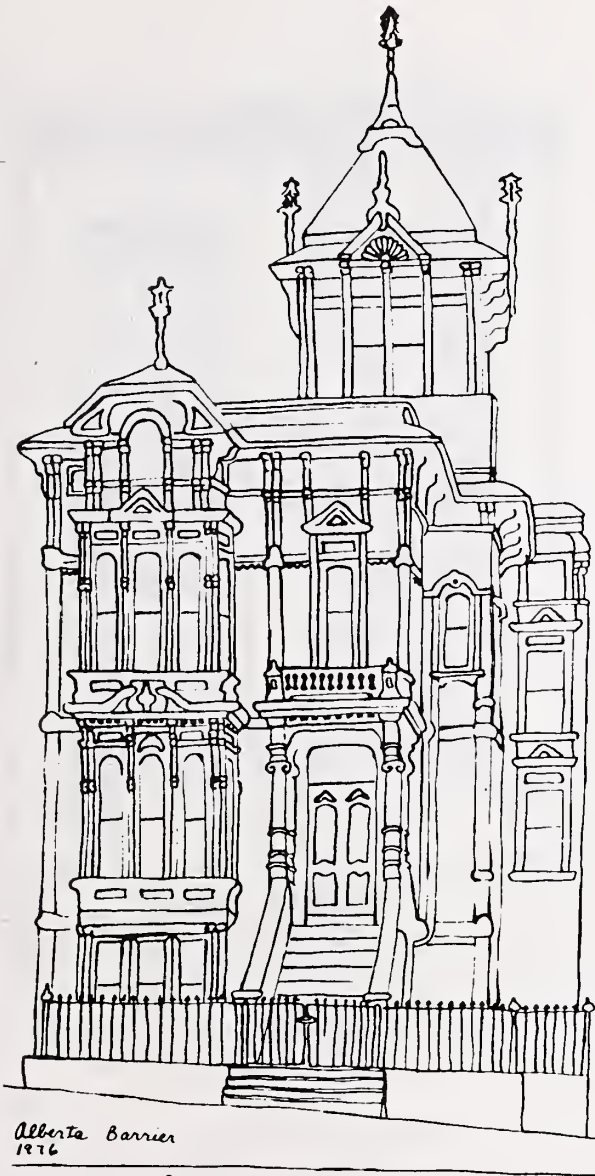
Each flat has three working Victorian fireplaces, still used for practical as well as decorative purposes, even though there is now central heating in the building. The present owner of the building is only the fourth owner since the last heir of the original owner died in 1961.

The contrast of these two flats is dramatic proof of how well identical Victorian premises can be adapted to the tastes and uses of their occupants. The lower flat now serves as the home and busy studio of a successful interior designer.



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1198 Fulton



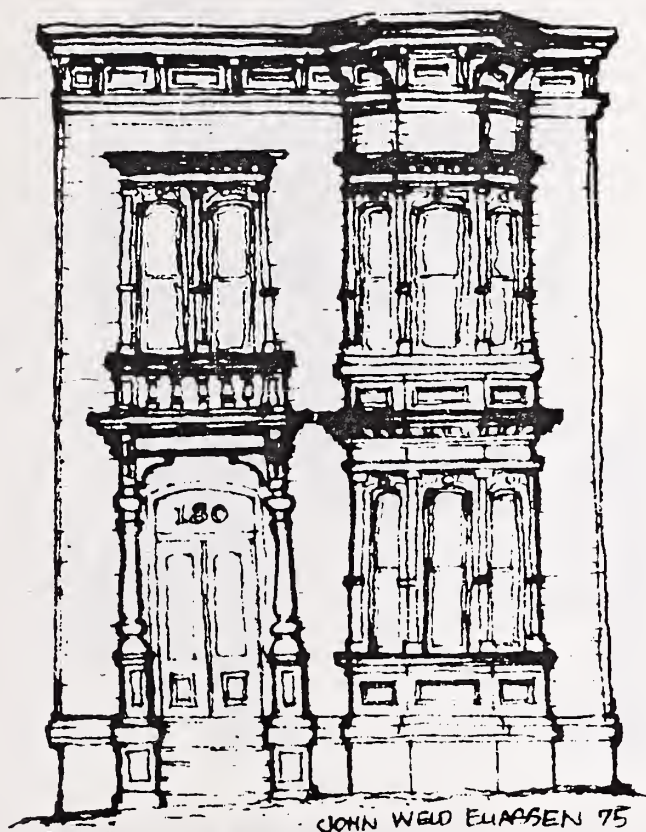
This grandly impressive Stick-Eastlake was designed by Heinrich Geilfuss and was built between 1875 and 1878. It is listed in the Almanach de Gotha for the years 1879, '80, and '81 as housing the Imperial Russian Consulate. City water department records show that water service was connected in 1889 for the then owner, William Westerfield, who added baths and the tower to the building at approximately the same time. Prior to this date, as in many houses in the City, a well on the property furnished water.

The owner from the mid-90's to 1928 was John Mahony, builder of the St. Francis and Palace Hotels, and re-builder, after the Quake, of hundreds of San Francisco's notable buildings. Mahony also built the flats to the east of the house on what had originally been the rose garden of the property.

In the mid-30's, the White Russians returned to the building to use it as a social center, where they installed a restaurant "Dark Eyes" in the basement ballroom. More recently the building has experienced a varied and sometimes bizarre occupancy thoroughly commensurate with its spectacular architecture. A magician who kept 500 candles burning continually, once lived in the tower room when the house was a rooming house, prior to its purchase by the present owners.

The present interior furnishings are completely in keeping with the grand scale and elaborately carved woodwork of the rooms, resulting in an interior in the romantic aristocratic tradition of northern Europe prior to World War I.

180 Liberty



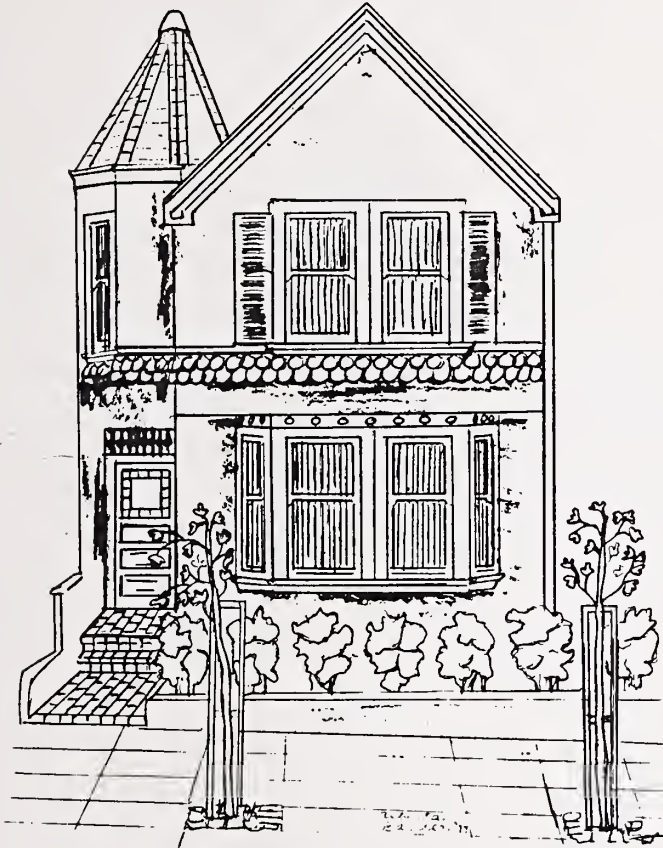
This basically Second Empire house with its flattened arches and angular bay window was built by Charles T. Bigelow, a bricklayer, who had the water turned on on September 2, 1871. Little is known of Mr. Bigelow who is listed in the City Directories of the period as a member of the Bricklayers Protective Association, whose address he used.

Like several houses on the tour, this house has been extensively remodeled. Records indicate that this was originally a one-story, one-family house, with the second story being added in 1895. Examination of the building seems to show, however, that it has been enlarged to the rear.

The house is distinguished by pipe stem colonettes on the angular bay window, and good carved double front doors. The balcony over the front door is decorative only, a typical Victorian characteristic.

The present owner, who has had the house for nine years, has stripped and refinished much of the woodwork, and installed the chandeliers which replace "fishbowl" chandeliers installed by an earlier owner. The furniture in the house has been collected as treasures, having been discovered in resale shops. The owner dreams of finding in some basement an original, unopened barrel of assorted carnival glass, which is how this turn-of-the-century glassware was distributed, at an average cost of 8 cents per item.

4143-23rd



This Queen Anne working man's cottage was connected to the City water system on 26 September 1892, but the house may be earlier, as there were four private water companies in the neighborhood, many houses had their own wells, and there are still several active springs nearby. The exterior details, with sawtooth and fish scale shingles on the second floor, over the horizontal siding of the first floor, and the octagonal corner tower are typical Queen Anne architectural features. The interior floor plan, with the rooms irregularly arranged around the central staircase is also typical of the Queen Anne style. The interior trim details span the years between 1880 and 1900.

The house was built for his own occupancy by David Lewis, stairbuilder and cabinet maker. He used typical copy book plans, but incorporated much custom cabinet work such as the book shelves and desk under the eaves of the second floor study.

The present owner renovated the house eleven years ago, but the numerous changes are always compatible with the original design and it is almost impossible to detect the modern alterations, as woodwork was custom milled to match the existing trim.

The Victorian furniture in the house belonged to the owner's grandparents and was saved from destruction in the Chicago fire of 1871 by being buried in the sand on the shore of Lake Michigan. The Corinthian capital well head-fountain on the deck was also salvaged from a building that was destroyed in the same fire.

Of particular note is the wire sculpture which hangs in the stairwell. It was created by Ruth Asawa, San Francisco's foremost sculptor, whose delightful mermaid fountain in Ghirardelli Square and circular panoramic San Francisco fountain in the courtyard of the Union Square Hyatt House are favorite San Francisco attractions.

Originally, the second floor had three bedrooms, but the small middle room was opened to create the study at the top of the stairs. Among the owner's various collections, the mechanical birds are of particular interest.

- 1 1045 SCOTT STREET
- 2 1451 McALLISTER STREET
- 3 1198 FULTON STREET
- 4 180 LIBERTY STREET
- 5 4143 - 23rd STREET



